



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Investment Agriculture Foundation Holds Annual General Meeting

April 17, 2014 – Victoria, B.C. The Investment Agriculture Foundation of B.C. (IAF) held its annual general meeting in Abbotsford last week to present its contributions for 2013 to the British Columbia agriculture and agri-food industry.

IAF chair Ken Bates discussed industry successes achieved from over 16 years of federal adaptation funding, while confirming IAF's continued support through new and ongoing funding opportunities.

"We want to build on these successes and become even more helpful in our efforts to make sure that B.C. agriculture can grow and prosper," said Bates. "We have worked to increase new business opportunities for industry by pursuing new programming, and we were rewarded with delivery of new innovation and export funding."

The impacts of IAF investments were also illustrated by executive director, Peter Donkers, during an overview of project highlights within the crop, livestock and pan-agricultural sectors. As numerous client testimonials demonstrated, IAF contributions coupled with industry leadership have yielded benefits across all sectors and throughout all regions of B.C.

Donkers elaborated on IAF's broadening program delivery role and the current funding opportunities available for industry.

"The Foundation is proud to have been awarded new GF2 programming, leading to an investment of over \$13 million towards projects that help advance agricultural innovation and competitiveness in B.C.," reported Donkers.

He also commented on the success of the new B.C. Agrifoods Export Program, which helps producers and processors across the province increase export sales and expand international market access.

Treasurer, Jim Tingle's financial report indicated another productive year, revealing IAF contributions of nearly \$11.6 million toward industry-led projects and initiatives in 2013.

Following the AGM, four new directors were welcomed onto the IAF board, including Walter Fritsche (Peace/grains and oilseeds), Arzeena Hamir (Vancouver Island/emerging sectors), Ed Salle (Thompson-Okanagan/cattle) and Kalpa Solanki (Lower Mainland/post farm gate).

A fond farewell was also bid to departing directors Paula Brown, Rick Gagner, Ernie Willis and vice chair, Irmi Critcher.

Continuing IAF directors are Len Bouwman (Fraser Valley/dairy), secretary, Robert Dawson (Okanagan-Similkameen/tree fruits and grapes), Jack DeWit (Fraser Valley/other livestock), Bar Hayre Fraser Valley/farm supply), Alistair Johnston (Fraser Valley/post farm gate), Bert Miles (North Okanagan/greenhouse, floriculture and nursery) and treasurer, Jim Tingle (Fraser-Fort George, community agriculture). Directors re-appointed for a further two-year term are chair, Ken Bates (Lower Mainland/field vegetables, berries and mushrooms) and Dale Krahn (Fraser Valley/poultry).

Also sitting on the board are non-voting liaisons Michelle Soucie and Philip Bergen (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada), as well as Grant Parnell (B.C. Ministry of Agriculture).

The Investment Agriculture Foundation is an industry-led not-for-profit organization that works with the agrifood industry to invest federal and provincial funds toward projects that have the potential to transform ideas into solutions.

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